



Naval Station Pascagoula's award-winning on-line newspaper

Homeport

Vol. III, No. 08

August 1, 2003

Inside:

Groves visits Groton, page 3

Davis receives leadership award, page 5

SECNAV visits Naval Station, page 6



Photo by Stacey Byington

A word from our Commanders

NAVSTA CO reiterates discrimination and sexual harassment policies

The Naval Station Pascagoula team is comprised of men and women who must work together to accomplish the station's mission. Because sexual harassment in the workplace negatively impacts productivity and professionalism, and because it is a violation of both Navy and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regulations, it is prohibited in any form.

Every Naval Station team member is entitled to a work environment that is free of such unlawful discrimination. To that end, every civilian employee and military member will participate in annual Prevention of Sexual Harassment training. Each individual will be held accountable for his or her own actions, and supervisors will be held accountable for taking action to deal with any inappropriate behavior in the work spaces.

Individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed, or who have witnessed such behavior, are encouraged to address their concerns first with the person demonstrating the inappropriate behavior. However, they should promptly notify the chain of command if:

- Addressing the behavior directly with the person concerned is not reasonable under the circumstances, or;
- The behavior does not stop, or;
- The behavior is clearly criminal in nature.

To report instances of sexual harassment, military personnel and civilian employees may contact the Command Man-



By CDR. Terry Rea
Commanding Officer
NAVSTA Pascagoula

Ms. Junarion Hubbard at HRO NAVREG SE (DSN 942-2280).

Discrimination in any form is a violation of both federal law and the Navy's core values. Discrimination destroys confidence and trust in the organization, and erodes cohesion and readiness.

Our people are our most important resource, and for the Naval Station Pascagoula team to function at its fullest potential each individual must be afforded equal opportunity to be a productive, contributing member.

To that end we will:

- Comply with both the letter and the spirit of all applicable laws and regulations

aged Equal Opportunity (CMEO) Representative as assigned per NAVSTAPASNOTE 1301. Additionally, civilian employees may contact Ms. Debra Hamm at HRO Gulfport-Pascagoula Office (228-871-2950 or DSN 868-2950) or

governing employment.

- Provide equal opportunity to all employees and to all applicants for employment.
- Take appropriate affirmative action to make equal opportunity a reality.
- Prohibit unlawful discrimination or harassment because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age and/or disability – physical or mental.
- Make reasonable accommodations for employees or applicants for employment with disabilities.

Suspected instances of discrimination should be addressed to the chain of command. Additionally, military personnel may contact the Command Managed Equal Opportunity (CMEO) Representative as assigned per NAVSTAPASNOTE 1301. Civilian employees may contact Ms. Debra Hamm at HRO Gulfport-Pascagoula Office (228-871-2950 or DSN 868-2950) or Ms. Junarion Hubbard at HRO NAVREG SE (DSN 942-2280).

Furthermore, anyone may call the Navy's toll free Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Advice Line at 1-800-253-0931.

SECNAV pays tribute to Bob Hope

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The following is a statement from the Honorable Hansford T. Johnson, Acting Secretary of the Navy:

"Generations of Sailors and Marines and their families join me and every man and woman serving in uniform in mourning the loss of Bob Hope. Bob Hope was more than an entertainer, he is and will always be an American icon.

For more than half a century, he brought smiles to young and old, from fresh-faced recruits to grizzled combat veterans around the world. His service and life are legendary, and we will miss him.

Today, USNS Bob Hope (T-AKR 300) proudly serves our nation in the defense of freedom. Our prayers and sympathies go out to his family, and to Bob we say, "Thanks for the memories."

May God bless Bob and his family."



Bob Hope, 100, died from complications of pneumonia on Sunday, July 27.



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

Homeport

Commanding Officer CDR Terry Rea
Executive Officer LCDR Nancy Fink
Public Affairs Officer . . . Stacey Byington
Journalist JO2 Renee Johnson

Homeport is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families stationed at or around Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content and any supplement is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Station Pascagoula.

Deadline for all routine copy is on or about the 15th of every month. Questions or comments can be directed to the Naval Station Pascagoula Public Affairs Officer. The Homeport staff can be reached at (228) 761-2164 or (228) 761-2019.

From our Fleet

Groves gets port visit in New London

By JO2 Steven Feller
CNRNE Public Affairs

NEW LONDON, Conn. (NNS) — Navy Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London got a viewing of the Navy's surface force, when it played host to the USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) and its crew during the Fourth of July weekend.

Stephen W. Groves, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class, guided-missile frigate homeported in Pascagoula, Miss., visited New London as part of the "Ship-to-Shore" program.

Ship-to-Shore is the brainchild of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut (CCEC), the City of New London and the state of Connecticut. According to CCEC President Cynthia Clegg, Ship-to-Shore is a way for the community to celebrate its maritime heritage.

"(Ship-to-Shore) is a small way to host the surface Navy and highlight SUBASE and the Coast Guard personnel and what they do for the region and community," said Clegg. "We are proud of the Navy region, and from a positive economic standpoint, they contribute a lot to the community. From 1999 to this year, they have contributed \$35.5 million, and all their volunteer and community services are invaluable."

Stephen W. Groves, which participates in anti-submarine warfare, is primarily used in counter-drug operations. According to Commanding Officer Cmdr. Rodelio Laco, Stephen W. Groves will deploy towards the end of summer.

"The ship recovered four tons of cocaine during its last deployment," said Laco. "Last year, we received a \$9 million combat systems upgrade, which will help us in our

Continued on page 9



U.S. Navy Photo by LT Jim Miller

The guided missile frigate USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) makes a port call to New London, Conn., over the July 4 weekend. The Groves, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate homeported in Pascagoula, visited New London as part of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut (CCEC), the City of New London, and the State of Connecticut sponsored Ship-to-Shore Program. According to CCEC President Cynthia Clegg, Ship-to-Shore is a way for the community to celebrate its maritime heritage.



LCDR Robert DuMont, XO of USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29), provides Dr. Dick Groves and his wife, Shirley, a tour of the ship during its five-day port visit to Groton, Conn. Dr. Groves is the only surviving brother of the ship's namesake, Ensign Stephen W. Groves. Ensign Groves was a 25-year-old World War II Naval aviator who died during the Battle of Midway.

U.S. Navy Photo by LT Jim Miller

From our Fleet

DESRON 6 commands UNITAS task force

By LTJG Ligia Cohen
COMUSNAVSP Public Affairs

MANTA, Ecuador (NNS) — UNITAS 44-03 Pacific Phase commenced July 10 when more than 2,400 Sailors and Coast Guard personnel, assigned to ships, aviation squadrons and Coast Guard vessels from five countries, rendezvoused in Manta and Salinas, Ecuador. The two-week annual exercise is designed to foster multinational coalition operations by building mutual capabilities and cooperative relationships among naval forces in the Americas.

This year's Pacific Phase includes participants from Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the United States. The Ecuadorian Navy is hosting UNITAS Pacific Phase, with 16 ships, two submarines and 17 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft from Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and the United States participating.

"For 44 years, UNITAS has brought together Sailors and naval officers from many nations to train and operate side-by-side and by doing so, developing cooperative relationships, professional understanding and lasting friendships," said Rear Adm. Vinson E. Smith, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, as he kicked off the exercise. Smith, the multinational Task Force Commander, also commended the Ecuadorian navy for their exceptional work in planning and initiating the execution of this year's Pacific phase.

The U.S. task group is commanded by Capt. James Martin, Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 6, and includes the flagship USS Stump (DD 978), USS McInerney (FFG 8), and their embarked helicopter detachments from Helicopter Anti-Subma-



Photo by PH1(AW) Martaellen L. Ball

A BQM-74 drone is fired from the fantail of the guided missile frigate USS McInerney (FFG 8) to serve as a target during an anti-air gunnery exercise conducted as part of UNITAS 44-03 Pacific Phase. Naval and Coast Guard forces from six countries are participating in UNITAS 44-03 Pacific Phase. The U.S. task force is commanded by DESRON 6.

rine Squadron Light (HSL) 42 and 48.

"Our forces' ability to operate together safely and effectively is crucial in today's con-

tingencies," said Martin.

"UNITAS allows us not only to learn from each other, but also to learn together in a state-of-the-art training envi-

ronment."

After two days of inport seminars and preparations, the multinational force set out to sea to conduct a week of traditional at sea operations, including undersea, surface and air warfare exercises in preparation for an intense three day final battle problem. The battle problem will place the force in a realistic scenario to test its ability to respond as a coalition in a variety of missions, including search and rescue, maritime interdiction and sanctions enforcement.

Simultaneously, six coastal patrol ships located in Salinas, Ecuador, are conducting the Coast Guard portion of UNITAS with the participation of personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard International Training Division. The Coast Guard portion of the exercise focuses on maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, and maritime pollution responses.

Now more than ever, UNITAS plays a critical role in maintaining interoperability and enhancing coalition operations in support of hemispheric defense. It also presents an opportunity for U.S. Sailors and Coast Guard members to work closely with their Western Hemisphere counterparts, visit interesting ports and experience the rich cultures of Central and South America.



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Visitors -- Crewmembers of USS Whirlwind (PC-11) pose in front of the ship, at NAVSTA Pascagoula's pier, after an awards ceremony. Homeported in Little Creek, Va., the Whirlwind is manned by 31 personnel. The ship stopped at Pascagoula briefly enroute to a five-day port visit in New Orleans.

Around the Homeport

Davis receives national leadership award

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Naval Station Pascagoula's command master chief, CMD CM(SW) Laurel M. Davis, has been selected as the 2003 enlisted recipient of the Captain Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award, sponsored by the Women Officers Professional Association (WOPA).

Historically, there have been two awards, one for a female officer, and one for a senior enlisted female. This year, due to the strength of the packages and to provide further recognition for those who excel, the WOPA awards board created a new category for female junior officers.

The award was presented to Master Chief Davis at the WOPA Symposium, held this year at Marshall Hall at Fort McNair, in Washington, D.C., July 31.

"I am extremely honored to be recognized with the Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award," said Master Chief Davis. "Capt. Hancock was the 'founding mother' of women in the Navy. It is because of her efforts, and that of many women who followed after her, that I can serve my country and wear the uniform of a Master Chief Petty Officer in the Navy. She laid the ground-



Captain Joy Bright Hancock, WAVES Director, circa 1951.



Photo by Stacey Byington

CMDCM(SW) Laurel Davis, Command Master Chief for Naval Station Pascagoula, looks over a Sailor's service record with DCC(SW) Glenn Soucy off the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51). Davis was selected as the 2003 enlisted recipient of the Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award.

work for the service of all Navy women."

Joy Bright was born in 1898 in Wildwood, N.J., and during World War I, enlisted in the Navy as a Yeoman (F) — for 'female', and served at Camden, N.J., and at Naval Air Station, Cape May, N.J. Following the war she married LT Charles Little, who was killed in the crash of an airship in 1921. A year later she obtained employment in the Bureau of Aeronautics, where she was responsible for editing the bureau's newsletter which evolved into Naval Aviation News. In 1924, she left the Bureau to marry LCDR Lewis Hancock Jr., who was killed when his airship, USS Shenandoah, crashed in September 1925.

Joy Bright Hancock returned

to work at the Bureau of Aeronautics after his death, and for more than a decade before World War II, and into the first year of that conflict, was responsible for the Bureau's public affairs activities. In October 1942 she was commissioned a Lieutenant in the new Women's Reserve (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, WAVES). She initially served as the WAVES representative for the Bureau of Aeronautics and later in a similar position for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), rising to the rank of Commander by the end of World War II.

In February 1946, CDR Hancock became the Assistant Director (Plans) of the Women's Reserve and was promoted to WAVES' Director,

with the rank of Captain, in July 1946. She guided the WAVES through the difficult years of Naval contraction in the late 1940s, and in the expansion years of the early 1950s, a period that also saw the Navy's women achieve status as part of the regular Navy. CAPT Hancock retired from active duty in June 1953. She died in August 1986.

The Captain Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Awards honor the visionary leadership of a Navy officer whose ideals and dedication led to the integration of women into the regular Navy. Established in 1987, the awards are presented by WOPA annually to recognize the inspirational leadership of a Navy or Marine Corps woman officer and enlisted

Continued on page 11

Around the Homeport

SECNAV visits Naval Station Pascagoula

By JO2 Renee Johnson
Public Affairs Office

The Honorable Hansford T. Johnson, acting Secretary of the Navy, briefly stopped at Naval Station Pascagoula on July 18, during a recent two-day visit to Navy installations along the Gulf Coast.

"Although the Secretary's main purpose for being in the area was to present a Meritorious Unit Commendation to Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair, Pascagoula (SupShip) and the Ingalls Shipyard," said CDR Terry Rea, Commanding Officer of Naval Station Pascagoula, "He also wanted to take the opportunity to see an active naval station and observe first-hand the support that we're giving the ships, SupShip, and to all the Sailors in the area."

During his stop he was briefed on the station's mission and its important role to the fleet.

"I believe we gave the Secretary a very good overview about the support we give not only to SupShip, but to the ships that are stationed here at Naval Station Pascagoula," said

Rea.

"He also received a very good brief from the DESRON 6 staff about the mission of the ships, which I think gives him a very broad understanding of what we accomplish here," she added.

After the briefings, the Secretary posed for a couple of photographs with Naval Station department heads and DESRON 6 staff.

Johnson, who has a background in thermodynamics and aeronautics, was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Navy on Aug. 3, 2001. He assumed the position of Acting Secretary of the Navy on Feb. 7 of this year, when former Secretary of the Navy Gordon England resigned to take the position of Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

His agenda along the Gulf Coast included visits to Northrop Grumman Ship Systems (NGSS) Ingalls Operations, SupShip Pascagoula, and the NGSS Avondale Operations in New Orleans, where he was involved in the christening ceremony for the USS San Antonio (LPD 17).



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

NAVSTA Pascagoula Commanding Officer, CDR Terry Rea, greets Acting Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Hansford T. Johnson, upon his arrival.

College scholarships awarded to Sailors

The Navy College Office of Naval Station Pascagoula and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College joined forces in July presenting scholarship awards to two area sailors.

Mrs. William Cheek presented two scholarships in memory of her husband who spent 20 years in the submarine service.

Receiving the William Cheek Memorial Scholarships were EM1(SW/SCW) Mark Conrad and BM2(SW) Roman Losev. Both Sailors are assigned to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Pascagoula.

College scholarship recipients EM1(SW/SCW) Mark Conrad, left, and BM2(SW) Roman Losev pose with Mary Cheek who presented each with a \$150 William Cheek Memorial Scholarship.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Around the Homeport

Medical/Dental takes Mudlump II trophy



Games -- LNI Jacqueline Rogers, NAVSTA Pascagoula Legal Department, tosses a horseshoe at one of the many events. In addition to horseshoes there were swim relays, sand volleyball, a golf shoot, spades tourney, paintball, a fun run, basketball, and the wacky relay.



Mudlump champions -- Medical and dental personnel pose at the conclusion of the Mudlump II competition after triumphing with participation points as the Mudlump champions for 2003. The Battle of Mudlump II was staged July 1 - 3 to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the opening of Naval Station Pascagoula.



Tug-of-war champs -- NAVSTA Pascagoula's Port Operations Department triumphed over Medical/Dental to reign supreme in the tug-of-war finale.

Photos by Stacey Byington

About the cover: CMDRCM(SW) Laurel Davis, NAVSTA Pascagoula's Command Master Chief, cuts watermelon at the Battle of Mudlump II. The Navy Ball committee sold watermelon to raise money to help minimize ticket prices for this year's annual Navy Ball. Other concessions included the NAVSTA Pascagoula wardroom selling popsicles and ice desserts, and the CPO Association selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Profits earned benefited those organizations.

Around the Homeport

Dental clinic opens new operator rooms

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

The grand-opening of the addition to Branch Dental Clinic Pascagoula was held Monday, July 28.

The construction project, at a cost of \$519,000, on the west side of the Naval Station's Branch Medical and Dental Clinic building, provides four additional dental operating rooms, a waiting room lounge, director's office, and separate male and female locker rooms. Approximately 2,700 square feet were added to the existing building.

The original dental clinic was sized to support a patient load of approximately 1110 people. The current patient load is more than 2000 people. The addition of four operating rooms enhances the clinic's ability to successfully implement 'multi-chair dentistry' as a measure of optimizing resources and meeting critical demands imposed by the patient population, and will provide dental practitioners with the ability to transcend into a new level of patient support.

The additional rooms significantly expand access to care, and provide a platform for state-of-the-art dentistry. The rooms are also equipped with measures to support the future implementation of digital radiography. Digital radiography significantly reduces the exposure of radiation to the patient by more than 90 percent, and at the same time reduces the amount of chemicals released into the environment.

The addition of the male and female locker rooms provides adequate space required to support the Department of the Navy's new physical readiness standards.

Capt. Frank Parreira, DC, acting commanding officer of Naval Dental Center Gulf Coast, Pensacola, Fla., one of



Photo by Stacey Byington

DT3 Angelic Hunt, left, and DTSN Kimberly Abrecht, far right, hold the ribbon as CAPT Frank Parreira, CDR George Diktaban, and Matt Schultz cut the ribbon opening the new addition to Branch Dental Clinic Pascagoula. CAPT Parreira is the acting commanding officer of the Naval Dental Center, Pensacola, Fla., and oversees Navy branch dental clinics from Florida to Texas. CDR Diktaban is the director of Branch Dental Clinic Pascagoula, and Matt Schultz is the NAVSTA Pascagoula facilities director.

the ribbon-cutting principles, said the new addition "will provide more access to dental care for people at the station, and enable the dentists to work in an atmosphere that is more like

a private practice."

The Naval Dental Center in Pensacola overseas all the Navy's branch dental clinics from Florida to Texas.

Others involved in the ribbon-

cutting are CDR George Diktaban, DC, director of Branch Dental Clinic Pascagoula, and Matt Schultz, Facilities Director for Naval Station Pascagoula.



Bud Girls -- Yorktown XO, LCDR Randy Reeves, poses with the Budweiser Girls, who visited the USS Yorktown (CG 48) to tour the ship and visit with Sailors on July 2. After their tour of Yorktown, the Bud Girls visited the USO to pass out memorabilia and sign autographs.

Photo by Stacey Byington

Navy News

USS Mustin commissioned in San Diego

By Naval Sea Systems
Command Public Affairs

The Navy's newest Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer, USS Mustin (DDG 89), was commissioned on Saturday, July 26, during a rare evening ceremony at Naval Air Station North Island, in Coronado, Calif.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark delivered the ceremony's principal address for the ship named to honor a prestigious Coronado naval family of war heroes spanning a century of service to Navy and country — Capt. Henry C. Mustin (1874-1923), Vice Adm. Lloyd M. Mustin (1911-1999), retired Vice Adm. Henry C. Mustin, and former Lt. Cmdr. Thomas M. Mustin.

Serving as ship's sponsors are Lucy Holcomb Mustin, wife of ship's namesake Vice Adm. Henry C. Mustin; Jean Phillips Mustin, wife of ship's namesake Mr. Mustin; and Mrs. Douglas Mustin St. Denis, sister of Vice Adm. and Mr. Mustin. In the time-honored Navy tradition, the sponsors will give the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

Anne Howard Thomas, who served as Matron of Honor for the first ship named Mustin, DD 413, in 1938, will also



U.S. Navy Photo by PHC Johnny Biviera

Sailors "man the rails" of USS Mustin (DDG 89), as the Navy's newest warship is brought to life by her crew at a rare twilight commissioning ceremony held at North Island Naval Air Station in Coronado, Calif., July 26. Mustin is the 39th Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, was built at Northrup Grumman, Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, and is named in honor of four members of the Mustin family, who served the Navy for more than a century.

serve these sponsors as Matron of Honor.

Cmdr. Ann C. Phillips of Annapolis, Md., is Mustin's first commanding officer. The ship is homeported in San Diego, Calif., and has a crew of

approximately 380 officers, chiefs and enlisted personnel.

Built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Ingalls Operations, Pascagoula, DDG 89 is 509.5 feet in length, has an overall beam of 66.5 feet, and

a navigational draft of 31.9 feet. Four gas-turbine engines power the 9,300-ton ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

Mustin is the 39th ship of 62 Arleigh Burke class destroyers currently authorized.

Groves takes part in Ship-to-Shore program July 4, ...

Continued from page 3
counter-drug operations."

Laco said the ship was originally scheduled to visit another city during the July 4 holiday, but decided to come to New London instead. He also said one of the ship's greatest supporters lives in the area.

"The only surviving brother of our ship's namesake lives here in Connecticut," said Laco. "He's been a great supporter of the ship, and he came out to visit us on Saturday."

The ship is named for En-

sign Stephen W. Groves, a 25-year-old World War II aviator, who died at the Battle of Midway. During the battle, he took off nine times from his carrier and was among the group of six American aircraft credited with shooting down 14 Japanese aircraft, and causing six others to retreat. For his action, Groves was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

This is the third year Ship to Shore has been running, but

only the second year in New London. New London hosted USS Caron (DD 970) in 2001 but was unable to acquire a ship last year. Clegg said last year, the Navy was swamped with requests for ship visits, and that the events of Sept. 11, 2001, had an impact on the Navy's ability to provide a ship for the Ship to Shore program.

"For this year's program, we put in a request for a ship to (U.S. Atlantic Fleet Commander) Adm. (Robert J.)

Natter in September 2002 and two weeks ago, we found out the Groves would be coming here," said Clegg.

Clegg continued to say the CCEC and New London would love to have the Ship to Shore program become an annual event, and see the program expand.

"We would love to see more ships. We'll even take an aircraft carrier...that would be awesome," laughed Clegg.

Navy News

San Antonio christened in New Orleans

By JOC David Nagle
NAVSEA Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS (NNS) —
“I christen thee San Antonio!”

With those words and the crack of a bottle of Texas sparkling wine over the bow, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas christened the lead ship of the Navy’s newest class of amphibious warship.

Hundreds of invited guests and shipyard employees were on hand as San Antonio (LPD 17) was christened during a ceremony July 19, at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems (NGSS) Avondale Operations in New Orleans.

“We are christening today the most advanced amphibious ship ever built,” said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, during his address at the ceremony. “It is the first of a ship class that will take our Navy and Marine Corps team, as well as the nation, far into the 21st century.”

San Antonio is the first ship named in honor of the city of San Antonio.

“The spirit, the gloried past, and the stubborn courage of the Alamo will sail inside San Antonio and every ship in the class,” said Hutchison, San Antonio’s sponsor. “For the San Antonio and its crew, we know they will serve with the same distinction that their forebearers did, and the fight for freedom will never be lost.”

San Antonio is a ship of many other firsts. It is the first surface ship ever designed in “virtual reality,” using computer modeling to design most of the ship before any steel was ever cut. It is the first amphibious ship to support the “mobility triad” of Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAAV), Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) and the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey aircraft, and it is



Photo courtesy of Northrop Grumman Corporation

Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, sponsor of LPD 17 the San Antonio, christens the Navy’s newest ship in New Orleans. San Antonio is the lead ship in a new class of amphibious warfare ships that will carry Sailors and Marines in defense of freedom for the next several decades.

also the first to feature the Advanced Enclosed Mast/Sensor system that replaces conventional masts, protecting radar and communications antennas from weather and allowing their electronic signals to pass through.

NGSS’ sites in Avondale and Tallulah, La., and Pascagoula and Gulfport, Miss., are building San Antonio and its sister ships. Dr. Phillip Dur, NGSS president, called San Antonio a product of a “radically transformed shipbuilding enterprise.”

“San Antonio will be a unique addition of the expeditionary strike groups of the future fleet,” he said. “These ships are being built to fight and built to last.”

The first four ships of the

class, San Antonio, New Orleans (LPD 18), Mesa Verde (LPD 19) and Green Bay (LPD 20) are in various stages of construction. The San Antonio class ships are 648 feet long, 105 feet wide and will carry a crew of 361 Sailors and up to 800 Marines. It will be the functional replacement for the LPD 4, LSD 36, LKA 113 and LST 1179 classes of amphibious ships.

“LPD 17 will play a vital role in the success of our Navy Marine Corps team,” said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark in a written statement. “It will carry our joint combat forces to the fight with increased lift capability, superior command and control capabilities, and improved ship survivability. It will give our

expeditionary strike groups greater speed, agility and reach, and will help us to operate from and dominate the near land battlespace, while improving the quality of life and work of our Sailors and Marines.”

Several quality of life features are incorporated in San Antonio, including gender-neutral living quarters with sit-up berthing, a consolidated galley and improved e-mail, and Internet access via the Shipboard Wide Area Network, or SWAN.

Several prospective crew members attended the christening and expressed their enthusiasm about serving aboard San Antonio.

“This is awesome,” said
Continued on page 11

Continuing on ...

Davis receives Joy Bright Hancock Award ...

Continued from page 7

member on active duty.

According to the award criteria, nominees must have demonstrated by example, on and off duty, inspirational, innovative and imaginative leadership. Nominees are mature leaders that have shown exceptional leadership over time and persevered to overcome challenges while serving. Through visionary leadership, nominees have made significant, lasting decisions that resulted in improved working conditions and quality of life for their peers and subordinates, as well as for the Navy and Marine Corps as a whole.

Davis was nominated for the award by CDR Terry Rea, Commanding Officer of Naval Station Pascagoula.

"Nomination for this award is perhaps the highest recognition a commanding officer can give," said Rea. "Master Chief Davis challenges juniors and seniors alike to excel in their personal and professional lives — and gets outstanding results. This is a nominee with

whom Captain Hancock would be proud to serve."

Davis is a 22-year veteran of the Navy, enlisting in 1981. After recruit training and basic electronics training, she attended Torpedo-man's Mate "A" School, after which she was designated at Torpedo-man's Mate Operator, and then later designated as a Torpedo-man's Mate Technician.

Shipboard assignments include two separate tours of duty aboard the USS Frank Cable (AS 40), homeported in Charleston, S.C., and then later in Agana, Guam; and a Command Master Chief tour aboard USS Paul F. Foster (DD 964), homeported in Everett, Wash.

Shore duty assignments include Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va.; Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; as an instructor at Service Schools Command, Orlando, Fla.; and as the Torpedoman's Mate subject matter expert at the Naval Education and Train-

ing Program Management Support Activity, Pensacola, Fla. She reported to her current assignment as Command Master Chief for Naval Station Pascagoula in January of this year.

The two-page nomination depicts Davis' professional accomplishments, leadership style and community involvement.

CDR Rea concludes the nomination saying, "Throughout her career, Master Chief Davis has actively sought and eagerly accepted ever more demanding and responsible positions of leadership, exceeding all expectations in each new endeavor. Her persistence in eliciting the absolute best an individual can offer has paid off at every level of her career. Her drive for self-excellence is evident in her every action and is an inspiration to those who work with her. She is most deserving of the distinguished Captain Joy Bright Bright Hancock Leadership Award."

New LPD San Antonio christened ...

Continued from page 6

Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW) Chad Rolph from Naval Service Training Center, who's career includes a tour aboard USS Guam (LPH 9). "This is a completely new dimension of ship. A lot of time went into building it."

"I am completely excited," added Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jamie Labauve, a New Orleans native from Naval Air Station Key West. "I'm looking forward to learning everything about the ship, how it works and how it runs. I wish I could get aboard it right now."

CDR Jon Padfield, San Antonio's prospective commanding officer, was as equally elated, feeling like "an 8-year-old kid with his first Corvette."

"This is the high point of my career," said Padfield, a Salt Lake City native currently commanding USS Comstock (LSD 45). "It's a great honor to have a ship like this with a fabulous crew."

His advice to his future crew? "Be excited. This ship will be the best."

San Antonio is scheduled for commissioning in 2005 and will be homeported in Norfolk, Va.

Education fair -- SN Russell Otway, awaiting the return of USS Yorktown (CG 48) to port, talks to Joyce Larson, a representative of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges. The Education Fair was hosted by the Navy College Office and included representatives from local educational facilities as well as those from Navy College Distance Partnership schools, who offer distance learning opportunities to Sailors.

Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson



NAVSTAPAS 'Bravo Zulus'

Personnel recognition:
MS3(SW) Bobby Walker,
BlueJacket of the Quarter
UT2 (SCW) Jeremiah Peden,
Junior Sailor/Quarter
EN1(SW) Curtis Davis,
Sailor of the Quarter
Amy Holcomb,
Civilian of the Quarter

MWR Activities



Photo by Stacey Byington



Open for breakfast -- Skeeter's Sports Grill is now open for breakfast, Monday through Friday, 6-9 a.m. On the left, MWR's Gemma Stewart, David Maxwell and Sara Helton work together to serve a variety of breakfast items. Above, a display board shows off the complete breakfast menu.

MWR in sponsorship venture with Baen Books

By Ingrid Mueller
Navy MWR Communications

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — The Navy's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division recently signed a commercial sponsorship agreement with Baen Books that will help bring expanded recreational opportunities to Sailors serving aboard ships and submarines worldwide.

"Navy MWR is committed to providing the Navy community with quality programs and services," said Bill Winters, head of the Special Projects and Programs Section for Navy MWR. "Commercial sponsorship is a means for MWR to offer events, programs, or services we might not otherwise be able to offer," he explained.

Under the commercial sponsorship agreement with Baen Books, a leading publisher of

military science fiction, all U.S. Navy ships will be provided with hardcover books and CDs. The Navy General Library Program Manager in Pensacola, Fla., will forward the books to the fleet as part of the Afloat Library Program.

"Ten Hardcover books and select CDs will be mailed quarterly to each surface ship and submarine in the U.S. Navy," explained Winters. "Each CD contains maps, charts, artwork, interactive games and most importantly, several complete novels that can be read on a computer or downloaded to a palm pilot. This will be especially beneficial on board submarines, where storage space is very limited," he added.

"We are thankful for the support of Baen Books through the commercial sponsorship program," said Winters. "Through sponsorship with Baen Books and our other com-

mercial sponsors, Navy MWR has been able to improve the quality of life of Sailors and their families worldwide."

Commercial sponsorship is an authorized way for Navy MWR activities to offset the cost of programs and services.

Military Wilderness Challenge set

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — MWR is hosting the third annual "Wilderness Challenge" outdoor extreme sports match Oct. 2-4 in Fayetteville, W.V..

The annual event is set to take place with the Appalachian Mountains and the Gauley River as the backdrop for more than 300 military men and women competing for bragging rights as the best of the best extreme athletes among our nation's services.

For two days, iron-men and women compete in seven grueling events, including an 8-K run through mountainous terrain, a 14-mile forced-hike and

Sponsorship is received in the form of in-kind services and financial support in exchange for public recognition, advertising consideration and/or product promotion at MWR events.

a 10-mile mountain bike race. Athletes get to test their physical endurance with a half-mile swim, a 13-mile white-water raft race (Class 3-5+), and a seven-mile "duckie" kayak race. Additionally, participants get a chance to compete in a war game paintball evade competition.

The last event drew 188 servicemembers, with the Marines taking the top two spots.

The Wilderness Challenge is open to all branches of active-duty military. Contact Michael L. Bond at (757)887-7256 or visit www.wildernesschallenge.net.

MWR Activities

Compete in 60-minute triathlon

Naval Station Pascagoula's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department has a wide range of activities and events planned for August. They include:

Doubles Racquetball Tournament Aug. 4 Fitness Center

To all those racquetball enthusiasts, here's your chance. Grab a partner and enter the two of you to compete for the grand prize in the Doubles Racquetball Tournament. Entry is free. The winning team receives a trophy. For more information, call the Sports & Fitness Center at 761-2107.

Paintball Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 4:30 p.m. Paintball Field

Join the adventurers who are discovering just how exciting "Capture the Flag" can be. Play with as few as four players (two two-person teams) Capture the opposing team's flag and return it to your team's flag station without being tagged with a paintball. Play for up to four hours for only \$10, includes protective clothing, guns and 200 paintballs. Call 761-2293 or 761-2038 to reserve the field.

Personal Classifieds

Houses for Sale

FOR SALE: A beautiful 4-BR, 2.5 bath in Bellview Heights subdivision, Moss Point. In a quiet subdued neighborhood, low traffic area, ideal for children. Hardwood floors, ceiling fans, spacious attic. Vinyl siding and trim. Keypad alarm system, night sensor lights. \$77,500. Call for an appointment, 475-4729.

NASCAR on the Big Screen CrackerJack's

NASCAR returns to the Sunday sports line-up for the big screen.

Aug. 3, Brickyard 400, Indianapolis Speedway, 1 p.m.

Aug. 10, Sirius at The Glenn, Watkins Glen International Speedway, NY, noon.

Aug. 17, Michigan 400, Michigan International Speedway, 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 31, Southern 500, Darlington Speedway, 11:30 a.m.

Spades Tournament Aug. 12 6:30 p.m.

Cracker Jack's

Play for the prize, play for pride, or play for pleasure. Spades is a game of chance and wit. The most experienced players don't always win. No cost to enter. First and second places win prizes.

Fall Softball League Coaches Meeting Aug. 13, Noon Sports/Fitness Center

The intramural Fall Softball League begins on Aug. 26. Attend this meeting to register your team for league participation.

Pool Tournament Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m. Cyber Cafe

If the following terms are familiar -- cue ball, rack, scratch, bank, rail, spot, kick, break, kiss and english -- then chalk up and run the table. Entry is free. The Liberty Program awards prizes to first and second places.

Pool Tournament Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Once again, MWR doubles its fun. Take another shot at winning the prize. Entry is free. Also check out the Cracker

Jack's menu.

Labor Day Golf Tournament Aug. 26

Gulf Hills Golf Course Ocean Springs, MS

Join Navy Pascagoula on the greens for a four-person scramble. Sponsored by First Command Financial Planning. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third-place teams. Additional prizes will be awarded randomly, including \$10,000 for a hole in one on a selected par 3 hole. Open to all active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD civilians, and family members. For more information, call the Sports & Fitness Center at 761-2107.

Spades Tournament Aug. 26, 6:30 p.m. Cyber Cafe

Take a chance and bid again. Entry is free. Prizes awarded to first and second place. The tournament is open to all eligible patrons.

60-minute Triathlon Aug. 27, 11 a.m. Sports/Fitness Center

Following the format of a typical summer triathlon, this competition will include running, cycling and swimming. Twenty minutes will be allotted for each event. The cumulative distance achieved from all events will determine the winner. Trophies will be awarded to the top male and female. Registration is free. The deadline to register is Aug. 25. For more information, call the Sports & Fitness Center at 761-2107.

Catfish Cookout Aug. 28, 6:30 p.m. Cyber Cafe

August is National Catfish Month. The Liberty Program is adding flame to the observance by serving golden, fried catfish, hush puppies and baked beans. Like all Liberty cookouts, there is no cost.

MWR Facilities Hours of operation

Outdoor Rental 761-2038

Mondays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturdays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**CrackerJack's
Lakeside**
Mondays-Thursdays, 5-10 p.m.
Fridays, 5-11 p.m.
Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sundays, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Sports/Fitness Center
761-2107**
Mondays-Fridays, 5:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sundays, noon-6 p.m.

Aerobics Schedule
Mondays - Boot Camp at 6 a.m.; Abs at 11:15 a.m.
Tuesdays - Cardio Kickboxing at 11 a.m.
Wednesdays - Abs at 11:15 a.m.; Step Aerobics at 3 p.m.
Thursdays - Cardio Kickboxing at 4 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays - Water Aerobics, 4-5 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays - Water Jogging Cardio Class, 4-5 p.m.

Cyber Cafe
Mondays-Fridays, 4:30-10 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**ITT
761-2432**
Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Auto Skills Shop
Lakeside**
Tuesdays and Fridays, 4:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.

Skeeter's
Main Softball Field
Open for breakfast Monday through Friday, 6 - 9 a.m., and for other special occasions.